

Cootes Paradise Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Welcome back, Bienvenue, Nĩ hǎo, Ahlan wa sahlán!

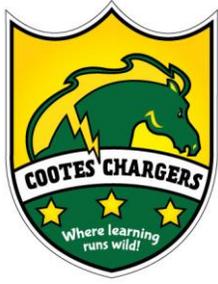
Cootes Paradise School staff is back and ready for the 2017-2018 school year to begin.

We would like to thank Mme Schindler, Mme Perras and Ms Trimble for all that they have done for CP students over the years and wish them well in their new adventures. We welcome back Mlle Tiringier and Mme Howell to the FI program. We have many new staff members whom you will have the opportunity to meet over the next few days.

Accompanying this letter are forms for you to complete and return. Please read the following pieces of information and return the required forms to your child's teacher by Friday, September 8th. Some of the paperwork is for your information only or optional to complete such as the 5-day cycle calendar with professional development days and holidays for the school year, this welcome letter and safe arrival phone number, a student accident insurance postcard and the Aboriginal self-identification form - www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/.../Aboriginal-Self-ID-Brochure.pdf
www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Self-IDForm.pdf.

We have worked very hard on our plans for the coming year. We will continue to target specific clusters of curriculum expectations to teach and assess throughout each term. Teachers will focus on developing students critical thinking skills as well as giving descriptive feedback to support students in their learning goals. Building on our Literacy and Numeracy foci, we will continue to have as few interruptions to learning time as possible. Announcements are now online and we will not be interrupting classrooms during the school day in order to provide students with maximum learning time. Research has shown that increased time on task is an important factor in student success. We are asking that you help your children be on time and prepared to learn each and every day. Please make sure you make arrangements for after school pick-up prior to the start of the school day as classes will not be interrupted unless there is an emergency. We are trying to minimize transitions and most specialized support will occur in the classrooms rather than having students withdrawn. Specialist teachers will be contacting the parents of students involved in our Tier 2 intervention strategies, such as Empower reading, to provide information.

Cootes Paradise desires to promote positive peer relations and prevent bullying and harassment of any members of the school community. To this end, the Cootes Paradise community (staff, parents and students) continues to proactively initiate anti-bullying strategies. The community and school will promote positive behaviour and respond quickly to bullying. The Cootes Paradise Code of Conduct, found in your child's agenda and on the school web site, describes various unacceptable behaviours and consequences. The unacceptable behaviours include verbal and physical misconduct. Consequences for inappropriate behaviour vary as we use the progressive discipline framework. Please review the code of conduct with your child as we continue to strive to make the school a safe place to learn and grow. Social programs that are used at Cootes Paradise include: Zones of Regulation – www.zonesofregulation.com, Collaborative Proactive Solutions – <http://www.livesinthebalance.org/> or the parent information link <http://www.livesinthebalance.org/walking-tour-parents>, MindUP™ - <https://mindup.org/mindup-mindful-classroom-framework-schools/>



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This year, we will continue with a 5-day cycle. This means that students will have physical education, music or another specialty subject on a scheduled day, 1 through 5, rather than a specific day of the week. Classroom website links or newsletters outlining schedules will be coming to you this week. For classrooms using the agenda, we encourage daily review as it provides both the student and home with information regarding the operation, expectations and policies of Cootes Paradise School. For classrooms using an online communication tool, please ensure that you register to receive regular updates. The CP website is updated regularly and we encourage you to subscribe - www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise.

It is very important that you call our safe arrival line if your child will be late or absent from school – 905-522-0601. The school's answering machine will be on 24 hours a day. If you are arriving late at the school, please enter through the front doors and come to the office for your pink entry slip. We ask that parents do not cut through the main building, when they are leaving after dropping off a late child, as doors are checked to ensure that they are secure after entry.

We require that all students with an allergy wear their epi-pen in a pouch around their waist at all times. During physical education classes, if the epi-pen is causing a child discomfort, the gym teacher will place the epi-pen with the first aid kit and return it to the child at the end of the class. With over 630 students in the school, wearing the epi-pen is a visual that indicate a life-threatening allergy to all staff. *We have many students who are allergic to nuts and peanuts. It is very important that you **do not send any nut or nut products to school** with your child.*

For information regarding the school bus please visit the **Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services website** <http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/public>. You will find information regarding bus delays and bus routing for your child. Please note that the school is not notified when a bus is running late. Parents and caregivers can check the website or contact HWSTS: Phone: 905-523-2318, Toll-free: 800-691-6402. You can sign up for late bus notifications on the HWSTS website under the parent portal.

If your child is registered for the after-school YMCA program and scheduled to take the bus home, the office needs notification on the days that your child will ride the bus home. If we do not have a written note from home, your child will be sent to the YMCA after-school program.

The beginning of school is an exciting time for all of us. We are looking forward to welcoming back and meeting new students in their first few days at Cootes Paradise.

We encourage parents to get involved at CP. The first Home & School / School Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27 at 7PM in library. Please fill out the attached nomination form to nominate a candidate or self-nomination form if you would like to run for a position yourself. Thank you to Marissa Sawatzky – School Council Chair and Heather Harvey and Erin Lepischak – Home & School Co-chairs for stepping up to lead these Cootes Paradise parent organizations.

Together we are better,
Denise Minardi
Principal